

Despite its drawback in other respects, the main library's location, adjacent to the Central Business District, is a desirable one. Unfortunately, the present site gives no room for expansion, and there is no off-street parking available nearby.

North Carolina public libraries on the whole are underfinanced. While the library expenditure per capita in the United States was estimated at over \$3.00 for fiscal year 1961-1962, North Carolina spent only 84¢ per capita. In the same fiscal year, Lee County's library received only 66¢ per capita, in spite of the fact that Lee County's per capita income is about equal to that of North Carolina.

The trustees of the North Carolina State Library, who are responsible for allocating Federal and State financial aid to local public libraries, recognizes the underfinanced situation of these libraries. They recommend in order to make a reasonable number of books available to local readers, that "regional" library systems be established to include several counties which contain at least 50,000 people. Under such a system, the books of each of the member libraries can be exchanged. Such a regional system would be governed by a board of trustees chosen by the governing bodies of the participating counties or municipalities, as set out in State enabling legislation, but member libraries would retain their identities. Several such systems are now operating in North Carolina; to encourage more of them, the trustees of the State Library have adopted rules for the allotment of Federal and State library funds which favor regional systems.

The need for library books and space, unlike other facilities such as water mains, sewer mains, and schools, should not be measured entirely by demand. A spacious, quiet library, fully stocked with books, can create its own demand.

The Lee County Library Board, working with professional library planners and the Sanford Planning Board, shall prepare plans now for relocating the library in adequate quarters and for bringing the library up to standard. It is suggested that a library location near the Lee County Courthouse might be desirable; located there the library would be near the center of its service population.